



# SMS NEWSLETTER

November 2017

*At Sacajawea, we are a compassionate community that honors grit and celebrates growth in order to face the future with a level head and a critical eye.*

## Principal’s Message

When students arrive at middle school from elementary, we often hear that parents are not sure how to stay involved in their kids’ learning. Many parents are very comfortable volunteering in their student’s previous school. They become very familiar with the one or two teachers in the younger grades, and now see five or more teachers’ names on their kids’ schedules. However, your young adolescents need your involvement now as much as ever.

With all of the changes your kids encounter during these middle years, your support and interest are invaluable. One of the easiest ways is to have your student share their learning. Avoid asking the old stand-by, “How was school today?” It is too easy for your kids to give the one word response. Ask open-ended questions that encourage an explanation of their learning (e.g. “Tell me an interesting activity you did in science today.” “What do you enjoy about the book you’re reading?”).

Check the different resources available for what your child is learning. Many of the teachers and teams have websites, some send out daily or weekly e-mails, and all expect the students to record their homework in some manner. Determine which way works best for your student and ask him/her regularly about their learning. Organizing and scheduling tasks is a life-skill; help your student identify and refine the best strategy for them.

Establish regular homework times and locations for your student away from technology (unless it’s being used in their learning). When an assignment or activity is completed, take a moment to have your son/daughter explain the learning. If no homework is assigned, have your student read for 30 minutes. Even better, join them with your book or magazine. Homework will not be assigned every night, but reading or practicing an instrument can be part of a daily routine.

We recognize that your student will be most successful when we effectively partner with you in their learning. Thanks for your work with us.

Gordon Grissom

## Bozeman School District Parent University

**Bozeman Parent University is changing to keep up with busy families!** Watch and listen to short informational videos and podcasts on topics of interest to families! **BPU-On The Go** will feature district and community presenters in a format you can enjoy from anywhere! We know families are busy but that doesn’t mean low interest in our topics! Previously scheduled **BPU** events are going **DIGITAL!** We’ll be bringing you information you can use in smaller doses that will be accessible 24/7. Look for **BPU-On The Go** on **Facebook** and the **BSD website**.

## Drop-Off/Pick-Up Reminder

Parents may **drop-off** or **pick-up** students in either the **north parking lot** or the **front oval** before and after school. With the **busses** confined to the **south parking lot**, either of the other two locations are available for parent vehicles. For the safety of your kids, please remember to **pull to the curb** when dropping them off.

Main Office: 522-6400  
Attendance: 522-6410

The SMS **core value** for the month of November is:  
**“Responsibility”**

## Dates To Remember

### November

- 2...SMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, B/C/O Concert  
SMS Gym 7:30 pm
- 6... SMS 8<sup>th</sup> GradeB/C/O Concert, SMS Gym 7:30 pm
- 10...Veterans Day Assembly@ 8:30am
- 13...PAC Meeting 12-1pm
- 21...Trimester One Ends
- 22-24..Thanksgiving Holiday
- 27... PIR Day  
**No School K-12**
- 30...SMS Jazz Band Concert, SMS Cafeteria 6:00 pm

### December

- 7...SMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade B/C/O Concert, SMS Gym 7:30pm
- 11...SMS Select Choir/ESO 7:30pm
- 12...Student-Led Conferences 4:00pm – 7:30pm
- 14...Student-Led Conferences 4:00pm – 7:30pm
- 15...Team Antelope Bridger Bowl
- 18...Team Elk Bridger Bowl
- 21-Jan. 2...Winter Break  
**No School K-12**

## LUNCH DELIVERIES

**PARENTS**....Unless it's your *student's birthday* please *refrain* from ordering an *outside lunch* to be delivered or dropped off to the school for your student. Thank you.

PAC News

**Bozeman Schools Foundation** is an organization that supports our public schools in Bozeman. To find out more about **BSF** please check out their facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BozemanSchoolsFoundation/> and their website at : [www.bozemanschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.bozemanschoolsfoundation.org) **BSF** will be having the “**Santa Run for Education**” on **December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. You can register at: [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com) and search **Santa Run for Education**.

Contribution/ Cornerstone Campaigns

Help us wrap up our Contribution and Cornerstone Campaigns. We are short of our goal of \$14,000 for each drive and short of our goal of 100% participation. So far we only have about 35% participation. These drives are critically important to help **PAC** fund teacher requests for equipment to use in the classroom and to fund speakers to come and talk with students. In addition, we help supply the google chrome books used in the classrooms. We are hoping to have a chrome book for every child’s use at SMS. Please help us achieve these goals and consider a donation today.

November PAC Meeting

Please consider attending our next **PAC** meeting on **November 13<sup>th</sup>** at **12 pm** at **SMS**. We will be hosting the **Bozeman Schools Foundation** and **SMS Principal, Gordon Grissom**. He will be speaking on the **new grading system** planned for the middle schools.

PAC Officers

- Jane Mittelsteadt, Co- President:**  
[janemitt@gmail.com](mailto:janemitt@gmail.com)
- Becky Ellig, Co-President:**  
[K12m09@msn.com](mailto:K12m09@msn.com)
- Tamara Knappenberger, Secretary:**  
[tkknappenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:tkknappenberger@yahoo.com)
- Annamarie Brasseur, Co- Treasurer:**  
[annamariebrasseru@yahoo.com](mailto:annamariebrasseru@yahoo.com)
- Kristen Lyle, Co- Treasurer:**  
[kristenklyle@gmail.com](mailto:kristenklyle@gmail.com)
- JanetYeomans,Volunteers:**  
[janetlyeomans@gmail.com](mailto:janetlyeomans@gmail.com)

SMS Library

The **SMS Library** continues to collect **BOXTOPS** for education. We use this funding to purchase books for **Literature Circles** and checkout. **Thank you** for your support.

Veteran’s Day Assembly

Again this year, we are **recognizing** the service of the **veterans** in our school community. On **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin the day with an **assembly acknowledging** and **celebrating** those who have served in the armed forces. If any member of your family is a **veteran**, we invite them to join us on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A reception will follow in the cafeteria.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Hearing Screening

**Hearing screening** for all **6<sup>th</sup> grade students** will take place, Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, during science class. Please try to avoid absences. If you have questions contact **Theresa Pfaff** at **522-6431**.

Children's Festival of the Book

**SMS 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, Victoria Wilson**, won the **Bozeman Public Library’s, Children's Festival of the Book, Illustration Contest** for her age group. **William Smith** placed 2nd in the 6-8 grade category, "**Create a Character NOT Like You. Creative Writing Contest**". The **Bozeman Public Library** hosts this festival.

Thrive Events

**Love and Logic**  
**SMS** parent liasions, **Libby Hansen** and **Ashley Mares-Jones**, will be teaching, **Love and Logic for Parents of Adolescents/Teens November 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in the SMS Library**. Sign up at [allthrive.org](http://allthrive.org) The class will be dynamic, engaging and fun! We will draw on the latest teen brain research and the work of **Developmental Psychologist, Dr. Gordon Neufeld**. Hope to see you there!

**Helping Your Child with Anxiety**  
Anxiety in middle schoolers is more common than it used to be. From sleeplessness to tears and headaches, anxiety manifests itself in many forms at this age. Based on many parent and staff requests, **Thrive is presenting "Helping Your Child with Anxiety"** on **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the Thrive classroom**. A local pediatrician, therapist and school psychologist will offer insight into this challenging issue. **Space is limited so sign up soon at [allthrive.org](http://allthrive.org)**

For more information on this or other parenting topics, contact your **Thrive Parent Liaisons** at **587-3840**. **Libby Hansen** is on **SMS** teams **Antelope, Elk and 7<sup>th</sup> grade**. **Ashley Mares Jones** is on **Bison, Yellowstone and 8<sup>th</sup> grade**.

### **Robotics Competition**

The **SMS VEX “In the Zone”** robotics competition will be held on **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** in the **SMS half gym**. The competition will be from **9:00 am to 3:30 pm**. **Adult volunteers** are needed to help on **Friday** to move the competition field, or early **Saturday** to help with set up. Volunteers are also needed for judging, check in, and general supervision. Please contact **Gordon Chamberlain** @ [gordon.chamberlain@bsd7.org](mailto:gordon.chamberlain@bsd7.org) for more information and/or if you can volunteer.

### **Intramural Basketball**

Intramural **BB for 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys** will begin on **Monday Oct 30**. They will play on Mondays and Wednesdays. Girls **6<sup>th</sup> grade BB** will begin in **January**. Their season will coincide with the girls 7/8 season starting in January.